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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 10/791,204 | 03/02/2004 | Kevin Keith Line | 05918-361001 | 1992 |
| 26161 | 7590 | 11/15/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 | | | | THOMAS, ALEXANDER S |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1772 | | | | |

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/791,204 | LINE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Alexander Thomas | 1772 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/28/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 26 is objected to because of the reasons of record. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 18-20 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimamura et al ('230). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive. The selvedges (i.e. edge portions) of the substrate or base layer 1 in the article of the reference have grooves 5 on both surfaces. These grooves can extend to a depth of 50 to 90% of thickness of the substrate which would inherently make the edge portions of the substrate or base significantly less stiff than the central portion of the substrate and allow the edge portions to conform to a mold surface; see column 6, lines 39-53.

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 15, 17-19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Northrup et al ('414). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive. The reference clearly discloses a layer 23 which may be considered the "base" layer that has a thicker central portion as compared to the

selvedge or edge portions; see Figure 1 or Figure 4. The difference in thickness would inherently make the edge portions significantly less stiff than the central portion of the product in Figure 1.

5. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 15, 17 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morse et al ('649). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive. Figure 4 of the reference shows the selvedge portions of layer 14 conforming to a mold surface. These selvedge portions inherently have a stiffness less than a central portion of the fastener in view of the thicker central portion, i.e. layers 14 and layer 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 14-17, 21-23, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimamura et al ('230). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive for the same reasons as set forth above in paragraph 3.

8. Claims 7, 8, 14, 16, 20, 21, 23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Northrup et al ('414). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive for the reasons as set forth above in paragraph 4.

9. Claims 10-14, 16, 18-22, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morse et al ('649). Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive for the same reasons as set forth above in paragraph 5.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1502. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00 M-THUR.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



ALEXANDER S. THOMAS
PRIMARY EXAMINER